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COUNTRY

Polish-occupied Germany

TOPIC Information from the Polish-Soviet Border in the Area of Goldap, Rominten Heath

25X1 EVALUATION [] PLACE OBTAINED [] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT prior to January 1951

25X1 DATE OBTAINED [] DATE PREPARED 22 June 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to January 1951, the border between Polish-occupied and Soviet-occupied portions of East Prussia was marked by a wire fence in the area north of Goldap (R 55/V 82). The Polish border zone was very narrow and was patrolled by WOP (Border Guard Corps) troops. Neither formations of border guard personnel nor wire obstacles or fortifications were seen in the border zone. The roads leading to the Soviet-occupied portion of East Prussia were crossed by ditches and cut off by road barriers just south of the demarcation line. The barriers were not permanently guarded. There were no watchtowers on the Polish side of the border. Small Polish engineer details were still engaged in clearing mines of World War II as far as the demarcation line. The border area was inhabited. In January 1951, German workers were still employed at the Niederwitz estate, which is located at the demarcation line 3.5 km northwest of Goldap.
2. On the Soviet side of the border, wooden watchtowers occupied by Soviet soldiers were placed along the border at an average of three per kilometer opposite the Niederwitz estate and in Rominten Heath, about 200 meters from the demarcation line. Some time ago a strip several meters wide along the demarcation line was cleared of vegetation. However, this strip had largely grown over again by the beginning of 1951. Prior to late 1950, no fortification work was observed. Gunfire was heard regularly from the depth of the Soviet-occupied area from 1948 to 1950. In addition, infantry weapons were often heard from the border zone of Rominten Heath in 1948 and 1949.
3. No official border crossing point existed between the Polish and Soviet zone in the Goldap area, nor [] any such points in other sectors of the border. Illegal border crossing from the Soviet to the Polish zone frequently occurred during the first few years after World War II, but apparently ceased in recent years. Railroad service from Goldap to Darkenhren (R 55/V 63) and Gumbinnen (R 55/V 75) was discontinued and the tracks were torn up near Goldap. Goldap was, however, still connected with Treuburg (S 55/A 99) by rail. *
4. [] illegal border crossing from the Polish to the Soviet zone was possible in the Goldap area, although the Poles were reluctant to cross into the Soviet zone. Germans living in and near Goldap had no identity cards or border passes, but only a work permit for the nationalized estate where they were employed. Polish WOP sentries sometimes asked for

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CLASSIFICATION []

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these permits at the demarcation line. Germans were no longer limited in their liberty to move.

25X1 * [redacted] Comment. Official railroad crossing points are at Gerdauen and Pr. Eylau.

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